Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /061 W

-----006875 131559Z /46

R 131424Z JAN 78 FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5727 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 0184

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: MAGALHAES PINTO GAINS SUPPORT OF SEVERO GOMES

1. IN A MEETING WITH THE RIO DE JANEIRO PRESS ON JANUARY 12, FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SEVERO GOMES, WHO RESIGNED IN FEBRUARY, 1977 FOLLOWING A SQUABBLE WITH A WELL-CONNECTED CONSERVATIVE SAO PAULO BUSINESSMAN, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT SENATOR MAGALHAES PINTO IN HIS BID FOR THE ARENA NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT. GOMES CALLED THE SENATOR'S CAMPAIGN "THE LAST TRENCH WHERE ONE CAN STRUGGLE FOR REDEMOCRATIZATION OF BRAZIL." GOMES ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT DECLINE TO RUN FOR VICE-PRESIDENT ON A MAGALHAES TICKET. MAGALHAES, WHO ARRANGED THE PRESS INTERVIEW, STATED THAT HE WOULD SELECT A VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE PRIORTO THE ARENA PARTY CONVENTION ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS SUPPORTERS INCLUDING SEVERO GOMES.

2. COMMENT. GOMES WAS SOMETHING OF A MAVERICK WHILE A MINISTER UNDER GEISEL WHO APPARENTLY TOLERATED GOMES' PUBLIC CLASHES WITH OTHER MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICIES BECAUSE OF GEISEL'S HIGH PERSONAL REGARD FOR HIM. GOMES IS THE FIRST MAJOR ARENA PERSONALITY TO ENDORSE PUBLICLY THE APOSTATE CANDIDACY OF MAGALHAES.

3. THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY BRASILIA. DEXTER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: MAGALHAES PINTO GAINS SUPPORT OF SEVERO GOMES

TAGS: PINT, BR, (GOMES, SEVERO), (PINTO, MAGALHASE)

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